

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

A/DCI Host Breakfast for Representative Norm Dicks

Monday, 6 April 1987, 7:45 a.m., DCI Dining Room

FROM:

David D. Gries *DN*
Director of Congressional Affairs

EXTENSION

NO

JCS ~~1~~-5354X/87

DATE

30 March 1987

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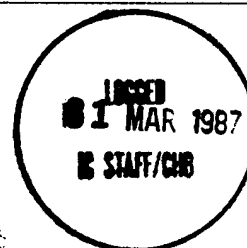
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COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

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A/DCI

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~~SECRET~~Talking Points

Representative Norm Dicks (D., WA) has been in the House for ten years and is now number three on the Defense Subcommittee of House Appropriations (behind Chairman Chappell and John Murtha). [REDACTED]

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Topics for discussion:Arms control: [REDACTED]

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Covert action: [REDACTED]

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Intelligence realities: [REDACTED]

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Dicks is an outgoing and able debater on the House floor and is willing to express his views very strongly. In smaller gatherings, however, he may be reserved [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] If so, the arms control topic might be the most useful conversation starter. We would also like to determine whether he could be engaged more actively and positively with intelligence issues both substantively and by visits to some of our installations.

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Washington - 6th District

6 Norman D. Dicks (D)

Of Bremerton — Elected 1976

Born: Dec. 16, 1940, Bremerton, Wash.
Education: U. of Washington, B.A. 1963, J.D. 1968.
Occupation: Lawyer; congressional aide.
Family: Wife, Suzanne Callison; two children.
Religion: Lutheran.
Political Career: No previous office.
Capitol Office: 2429 Rayburn Bldg. 20515; 225-5916.



In Washington: Dicks rushes into congressional action like the Rose Bowl linebacker he once was, aggressive and confident — or, some say, overaggressive and overconfident. He brought to the House habits he learned in the Senate as an aide to Warren G. Magnuson, the veteran Appropriations power, and he acts like a junior Magnuson, wheeling and dealing in the Appropriations committee and on the House floor.

When Dicks decides to tackle an issue, he is not overly concerned about whose side of the field it is on. He was not among the early nuclear freeze activists, for example, nor does he have a seat on the Foreign Affairs Committee, which brought the freeze resolution to the floor in the 98th Congress. But by the time the House finally passed a freeze in May 1983, after more than 40 hours of debate, Dicks had made himself a force in the negotiations.

It was his amendment, modified in last-minute talks with the more militant freeze proponents, that convinced critics to end their delaying strategy and allow a final vote on the freeze itself. The amendment specified that the freeze could eventually lapse if no progress were made toward actual reduction in nuclear weapons.

While the freeze debate was going on, Dicks was lobbying for the MX missile, a weapon whose deployment he had previously opposed. He used his role on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee to write a letter to President Reagan asking for assurances that development of the MX would be part of an arms control negotiating strategy and not an alternative to it. Reagan's "Dear Norm" letter giving those assurances led the subcommittee to approve the MX by a 9-3 vote in mid-May.

Then, forming an alliance with moderate Democrats Les Aspin of Wisconsin and Albert Gore Jr. of Tennessee, Dicks helped fend off anti-MX amendments on the floor in the remaining months of the 98th Congress and in

early 1985, when money for 21 missiles finally cleared Congress.

Dicks argued long and hard against contentions that the MX could be used as a "first strike" weapon, further destabilizing the arms race. Along with Gore, he sponsored an amendment requiring Reagan to reveal any plans for developing such a first-strike capability.

Dicks did not let his support for the MX take him too close to other Reagan defense policies. He strongly supported congressional action blocking production of nerve gas weapons, and became one of the most outspoken critics of Reagan's strategic defense initiative, the so-called "Star Wars" orbiting anti-missile system. Dicks joined the House majority that voted to impose a one-year moratorium on testing anti-satellite weapons.

Dicks' pro-MX votes in 1984 and 1985 caused him some political trouble from anti-nuclear groups back home. But shortly after the 99th Congress opened, arms reduction talks between the U.S. and the Soviet Union were starting up again in Geneva, and Dicks was crowing that events had proven him right.

"You bet I feel vindicated. A lot of people said we were fools for trying to get the president back to the table," Dicks said. "We weren't sure it would work ourselves. But we've got only one president, and we figured we wanted to work with him."

During the 97th Congress, Dicks maneuvered his way through several major controversies affecting his home state and its most famous industry, Boeing.

In 1981 he moved quickly after the House, considering a supplemental money bill, cast a surprise vote against the Export-Import Bank, reducing its funding to the level recommended by President Reagan.

Export-Import money is crucial to Boeing.

Norman D. Dicks, D-Wash.

Washington 6

Maritime interests dominate the 6th, which surrounds the sinuous waterways that cut into the shores of Puget Sound and the Hood Canal. Docks, naval installations and shipbuilding centers maintain the peninsula's historic links with the sea.

The industrial city of Tacoma — which is overshadowed by its nearby rival, Seattle, and is sensitive about it — is the population center of the district with nearly one-quarter of the residents. Tacoma's fortunes follow the cycles of Boeing's aircraft business, but the city is less dependent on the huge aerospace firm than is Seattle. Commerce at the dockyards of Tacoma's deep-water port has enjoyed brisk growth. The wood-products and metal-smelting industries are also vital elements in the city's economy. The Tacoma area is the world headquarters of the Weyerhaeuser Co., although the main offices of the lumber giant are in the 8th.

Tacoma's blue-collar, heavily unionized electorate generally tilts Pierce County to centrist Democrats. But candidates viewed as further to the left — such as Walter

Puget Sound — Bremerton; Tacoma

Mondale in 1984 and U.S. Senate nominee Mike Lowry in a 1983 special election — have trouble carrying the county.

Across Puget Sound from Tacoma, on the Kitsap Peninsula, is Bremerton, where shipbuilding and docking remain the backbone of local industry, and where the U.S. Navy is an important influence. The 6th is home to the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, which includes drydocks, supply depots and a refueling and refitting center for nuclear-powered aircraft carriers. Paper and wood are also central concerns. Because of the labor vote in Bremerton, surrounding Kitsap County is good territory for most statewide Democrats.

Population: 516,561. White 451,581 (87%), Black 31,675 (6%), American Indian, Eskimo and Aleut 6,488 (1%), Asian and Pacific Islander 16,736 (3%). Spanish origin 14,660 (3%). 18 and over 374,063 (72%), 65 and over 50,932 (10%). Median age: 28.

and Dicks coordinated a lobbying campaign that reversed the vote. Working with the Machinists union as well as Boeing and other companies that use the bank's money, Dicks and his allies changed enough votes to convert a 231-166 decision one day into a 237-162 vote to restore the money 24 hours later.

But his aggressive style failed the following year on a defense bill, when he tried to convince the House to buy Boeing 747 planes instead of Lockheed's C-5 for transport.

Both sides lobbied furiously in the House. Boeing advocates claimed converting the 747s from passenger to military transport use was the cheapest way to solve the problem. Lockheed backers said the 747 was too small to carry the necessary cargo. In the end, the House overwhelmingly backed the C-5, and a conference with the Senate ratified that decision.

Dicks still did not give up. Charging that Lockheed colluded with the Air Force to lobby Congress on behalf of the C-5, he asked the House to demand that the Defense Department turn over all files on the lobbying effort. The House tabled that motion after agreeing to hold hearings.

On the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Dicks looks after the extensive Navy facilities in Bremerton in his district. He also works on military pay questions, seeking to steer money available for raises to experienced personnel rather than new recruits. "It is not the early salary levels that attract somebody into the service," he insists.

Dicks' other Appropriations assignment, the Interior Subcommittee, is the place where much of the national energy research is funded. He spent years on this panel trying to get the government to stop drilling for oil on the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, and to allow private companies to begin.

But his attitude toward other federal land is different. When Interior Secretary James G. Watt was slow in collecting energy royalty payments from leases on federal property, Dicks joined the Democratic chorus of complaints. He claimed that Watt threatened to campaign against him in 1982. "I should have offered him a first-class plane ticket to get him to come," Dicks said.

At Home: After three years as administrative assistant to Magnuson, Dicks decided to

Norman D. Dicks, D-Wash.

go home in 1976 and run for Congress. He long had been planning a campaign in the 6th District for whenever incumbent Democrat Floyd Hicks chose to retire, and when Hicks was named to the state Supreme Court in 1976, Dicks began running with his usual intensity.

He had to compete with three major candidates for the nomination: a young activist state representative, a former president of Pacific Lutheran University and the mayor of Tacoma. But Dicks' ability to tap the resources of labor and other interest groups helped him put together a winning coalition. He won the primary with 36 percent of the vote.

Dicks had no trouble winning against a weak Republican that fall, but he went on a slide in the next two elections, pestered by Republican James Beaver, a conservative law professor from Tacoma. Dicks managed to clear 60 percent in 1978, but in 1980, Beaver was buoyed by financial support from the New Right, and held Dicks to 54 percent.

After that narrow escape, Dicks took steps to ensure that his 1982 race would not be so close. He took out full-page newspaper ads to tell voters that "Stormin' Norman" was as effective in the House as he had been on the college gridiron. "I've been back here in the district every other weekend since the '80 election," he claimed during the campaign.

While Beaver had attacked the incumbent from the right, Dicks' 1982 challenger, Republican state Sen. Ted Haley, was more liberal. Haley painted the incumbent as a profligate spender too friendly with military contractors.

But that charge just gave Dicks an excuse to talk about the pork he had brought home to the district. He claimed credit for the completion of the Tacoma Spur Highway and numerous Navy ship overhauls at Bremerton. Dicks' 63 percent victory indicated he was moving toward security, and he confirmed that in 1984 by taking a 2-to-1 margin against Republican Mike Lonergan, a local radio personality.

Committee

Appropriations (18th of 35 Democrats)
Defense; Interior.

Elections

1984 General		
Norman D. Dicks (D)	124,367	(66%)
Mike Lonergan (R)	60,721	(32%)
1984 Primary		
Norman D. Dicks (D)	65,238	(93%)
Jim Klapproth (D)	5,070	(7%)
1982 General		
Norman D. Dicks (D)	89,985	(63%)
Ted Haley (R)	47,720	(33%)
Previous Winning Percentages: 1980 (54%) 1978 (61%) 1976 (74%)		

District Vote For President

1984		
D	82,214	(42%)
R	111,116	(57%)

Campaign Finance

	Receipts	Receipts from PACs	Expenditures
1984			
Dicks (D)	\$244,782	\$164,397 (67%)	\$161,000
Lonergan (R)	\$11,868	0	\$11,670
1982			
Dicks (D)	\$293,579	\$147,047 (50%)	\$271,250
Haley (R)	\$197,910	\$14,749 (8%)	\$197,365

Voting Studies

Year	Presidential Support		Party Unity		Conservative Coalition	
	S	O	S	O	S	O
1984	43	49	79	15	54	42
1983	38	61	83	11	34	60
1982	40	53	89	8	36	63
1981	50	42	68	24	60	35
1980	74	21	81	15	44	53
1979	75	18	82	9	33	64
1978	69	24	79	16	29	64
1977	67	24	76	14	32	55

S = Support O = Opposition

Key Votes

Raise Social Security retirement age to 67 (1983)	N
Bar covert U.S. aid to Nicaragua (1983)	Y
Reduce dairy price supports (1983)	N
Pass Equal Rights Amendment (1983)	Y
Freeze physicians' fees under Medicare (1984)	N
Bar aid to anti-Sandinista forces in Nicaragua (1984)	Y
Pass bill to revise immigration laws (1984)	Y
Cut education spending (1984)	N
Authorize procurement of 21 MX missiles (1985)	Y

Interest Group Ratings

Year	ADA	ACA	AFL-CIO	CCUS
1984	70	21	62	38
1983	75	33	94	32
1982	65	30	90	23
1981	50	26	80	42
1980	67	26	76	71
1979	63	4	75	22
1978	45	19	90	33
1977	50	9	90	24

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